

The Commercial Bait Industry in Ontario

STATISTICAL REPORT, 2003

INTRODUCTION

This report is a summary of Ontario's bait industry statistics based on the 2003 commercial bait licences and the 2003 annual returns. Commercial bait operators are required to obtain a commercial bait licence from the Ministry of Natural Resources (MNR) and submit an annual return summarizing their harvest and sales information. The annual returns are collected at the MNR District Offices and forwarded to Fisheries Section in Peterborough. The Bait Association of Ontario compiles the information used in this report.

LICENCE SALES

In 2003, the total number of commercial bait licences issued in Ontario was 1,416. See **Figure 1** (right) for a summary of licences issued by MNR Region, including the Districts with the highest and lowest number of licences issued in each Region.

The total number of bait licences issued by licence type, and the total revenue generated from each type of licence in 2003 are as follows:

LICENCE TYPE	NUMBER SOLD	TOTAL REVENUE
Regular Harvester	572	\$275,470
Regular Dealer	451	\$67,650
Tourist Harvester	117	\$7,865
Tourist Dealer	276	\$8,280
TOTAL	1,416	\$359,265

Figure 1
LICENSE SALES SUMMARY

NORTHWEST REGION

Total475
Lowest: Sioux Lookout (1)31
Highest: Kenora (2)95

NORTHEAST REGION

Total412
Lowest: Cochrane (3)11
Highest: North Bay (4)119

SOUTHERN REGION

Total529
Lowest: Pembroke (5)37
Highest: Peterborough (6)95



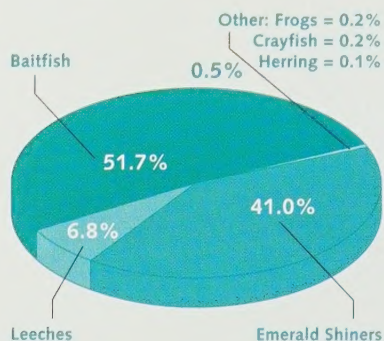
Figure 2
TOTAL ANNUAL RETURNS

REGION	RETURNS	MISSING
Northwest.....	466	9
Northeast	396	16
Southern	499	30
TOTAL.....	1,361	55

Figure 3
TOTAL BAIT HARVESTED/SOLD
Measured in dozens, Ontario, 2003.

BAIT	HARVESTED	SOLD
Bait-fish.....	3,255,580	2,537,707
E. shiners.....	2,582,890	629,985
Leeches.....	432,595	1,052,021
Frogs.....	9,819	5,064
Crayfish.....	15,273	17,836
Herring	1,174	2,954

Figure 4
PERCENT OF TOTAL BAIT HARVEST BY BAIT TYPE
Measured in dozens, Ontario, 2003.



ANNUAL RETURNS

The total number of annual returns received from each MNR Region for this report and the number of returns that were not received based on 2003 licence sales are shown in **Figure 2**, left. This report contains statistics on 1,361 annual returns or about 96.1% of the 2003 licence sales. Presumably, the total harvest and retail sales information is underestimated by about 4%.

BAIT HARVESTED AND SOLD

The total amount (in dozens) of bait harvested and sold in Ontario in 2003 is shown in **Figure 3**, left.

There are large discrepancies between bait harvested and sold for some bait types. Where the amount harvested is higher than the amount sold (Bait-fish, emerald shiners and frogs) the difference is partly due to mortality of bait from the time it is harvested to the time it is sold. Another factor is the way bait is measured. It is often harvested in gallons and pounds, which are less accurate ways of measuring bait than the retailer who normally sells bait by the dozen. The difference between harvested and sold for emerald shiners could be due to higher mortality than other bait species and that retailers are probably selling them as mixed bait and not reporting them as emerald shiners. Also, some emerald shiners are exported to the United States that would not appear on the dealer's annual return.

Conversely, the number of leeches reported sold is considerably higher (619,426 dozen) than leeches reported harvested. This difference is mostly due to the large amount of leeches that are imported into Ontario from the United States. These leeches would not show up on the harvester returns but would appear as retail sales at the dealer level. The number of crayfish and herring harvested is lower than the number reported sold. This is harder to explain since the units of measurement for these bait types are the same for both harvesters and dealers. The differences among all species are also probably due to inaccurate recording of bait harvest and sales.

Bait-fish are the most abundant bait type and herring the least abundant bait type (see **Figure 4**, left).



The total bait harvested and sold by bait type in each MNR Region is shown below (measured in dozens):

CATEGORY	NORTHWEST	NORTHEAST	SOUTHERN
BAIT-FISH			
Harvested	1,253,159	555,011	1,447,409
Sold	1,217,760	580,040	739,908
EMERALD SHINERS			
Harvested	43,720	3,753	2,535,417
Sold	25,624	102,799	501,562
LEECHES			
Harvested	265,395	44,055	123,124
Sold	754,190	76,545	221,287
FROGS			
Harvested	0	0	9,819
Sold	0	0	5,064
CRAYFISH			
Harvested	30	1,694	13,549
Sold	23	539	17,274
LAKE HERRING			
Harvested	1,174	0	0
Sold	2,658	240	57

See **Figure 5** (right) for the amount of total bait harvested shown as a percentage of all bait harvest by MNR Region.

THE VALUE OF BAIT SALES IN ONTARIO

Figure 6 (right) shows the total retail value of bait sold by bait type in Ontario in 2003. In terms of percent of total bait retail value by bait type, bait-fish are the most valuable bait type and herring the least valuable bait type (see **Figure 7**, right).

The total retail value and percent of total value for each MNR Region by bait type are as follows:

CATEGORY	NORTHWEST	NORTHEAST	SOUTHERN
Bait-fish	\$4,372,339	\$2,071,318	\$2,730,159
Emerald Shiners	\$77,529	\$352,782	\$1,745,509
Leeches	\$3,003,766	\$308,679	\$885,266
Frogs	\$000	\$000	\$42,296
Crayfish	\$232	\$1,790	\$59,397
Lake Herring	\$23,591	\$2,097	\$622
Total \$	\$7,477,457	\$2,736,666	\$5,463,249
Total %	47.6	17.4	35.0

Figure 5

TOTAL BAIT HARVESTED
By each region, Ontario, 2003.

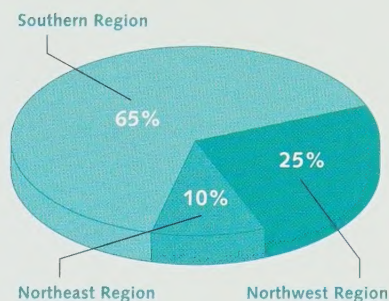


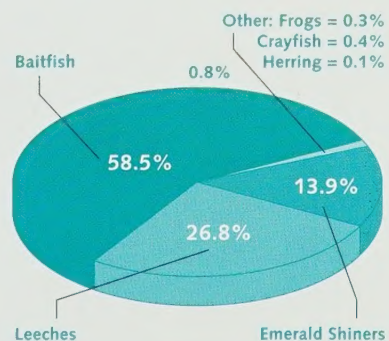
Figure 6

RETAIL VALUE OF BAIT SOLD
By bait type, Ontario, 2003.

BAIT	RETAIL VALUE
Bait-fish	\$9,173,816
Emerald Shiners.....	\$2,175,820
Leeches	\$4,197,712
Frogs	\$42,296
Crayfish	\$61,419
Lake Herring	\$26,310
Total.....	\$15,677,373

Figure 7

TOTAL VALUE OF BAIT SOLD
By bait type, Ontario, 2003.



Note:

CONVERSION FORMULA

On many annual returns there was data missing, particularly in relation to the value of bait sold. Other errors included reporting of wholesale instead of retail value. To provide consistency to the data and to fill in missing information, a conversion formula from gallons and pounds to dozens was used as well as an average price per dozen for the various bait types.

CONVERSION TABLE

The conversion table for converting bait-fish and leeches to dozens is as follows:

WEIGHT CONVERSION

Bait-fish and emerald shiners

1 pound	6 dozen
1 gallon	60 dozen

Leeches

1 pound	20 dozen
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AVERAGE PRICE PER DOZEN

BAIT PRICE

Bait-fish & emerald shiners.....	\$3.50
Leeches	\$4.00
Frogs	\$7.00
Crayfish	\$3.00
Lake herring.....	\$8.00

A summary of some of the bait statistics comparing 2002 and 2003 are as follows:

	2002	2003
Total Licences Issued	1,400	1,416
Total Licence Revenue	\$355,510	\$359,265
Total bait harvested in dozens (all types).....	5,565,024	6,297,331
Total bait sold in dozens (all types)	4,986,645	4,245,567
Percent of total bait harvest by bait type:		
Bait-fish	62.9	51.7
E. Shiners.....	30.5	41.0
Leeches	6.1	6.9
Frogs	0.1	0.1
Crayfish	0.3	0.2
Lake Herring.....	0.1	0.1
Percent of total bait sold by bait type:		
Bait-fish	61.6	58.5
E. Shiners.....	14.3	13.9
Leeches	23.3	26.8
Frogs	0.2	0.3
Crayfish	0.4	0.4
Lake Herring.....	0.2	0.2
Total bait harvested by MNR Region (%)		
Northwest	27	25
Northeast	12	10
Southern	61	65
Total bait sold by MNR Region (%):		
Northwest	47	47.6
Northeast	16	17.4
Southern	37	35.0
Bait retail value (all types)	\$19.2 million	\$15.7 million

SUMMARY

This report indicates that the bait industry statistics are similar between 2002 and 2003 except for total sales and value which have dropped about 15% and 18% respectively. Reporting on the bait industry is part of a partnership agreement between the Ministry of Natural Resources and the Bait Association of Ontario. This type of statistical report will be generated annually based on licence sales and annual returns from bait operators. A more detailed report was prepared for 2002 and is available from MNR or the BAO upon request.